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The Gleaners

David Drake

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Illustration by Scott Cummins

The Gleaners

David Drake

I see them harvesting the highway:
the old couple seeks aluminum cans
among the urban flotsam.

Silhouetted against the plains,
they make me think of Millet's peasants
bent to earth inevitably.

Children or grandchildren of the farm,
they do not own this land but at least
someone else sows the crop.

Scott Cummins 1994

